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BULLETIN NO. 86-14

TO THE HEADS OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ESTABLISHMENTS

SUBJECT: Metropolitan Statistical Areas

- 1. Purpose: This Bulletin provides new instructions on the use of the definitions of metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs), and adds a new MSA.
- 2. Background: Pursuant to 44 U.S.C. 3504(d)(3) and 35 U.S.C. 1104(d), the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) defines MSAs for use in Federal statistical programs. In June, 1983, OMB issued new MSA definitions based on data from the 1980 Census of Population and Housing and criteria that had been developed by the Federal Committee on Metropolitan Statistical Areas (45 Fed. Reg. 956, January 3, 1980). OMB updates these definitions each June, adding new areas that have qualified as MSAs and cities that have qualified as central cities of MSAs on the basis of the Bureau of the Census' intercensal population estimates or special census population counts.
- 3. New MSA: Effective June 30, 1986, Merced, CA, is defined as a Level C MSA (FIPS Code 4940). The Merced, CA MSA comprises Merced County and has Merced, CA as its central city.
- 4. Use of MSA Definitions: All Federal statistical programs that provide data for MSAs shall adhere to the most recent definitions issued by the OMB.

No agency shall rely on the definitions of MSAs in the administration of any nonstatistical program until the head of the agency has determined that the definitions are appropriate for that purpose and that their use is justifiable by the agency's organic statute. Where appropriate, the agency should consider whether the public should be afforded notice and an opportunity to submit written comments before the definitions of MSAs are adopted.

Any regulation pertaining to a nonstatistical program that contains the term "metropolitan statistical area" in the operative text must provide a procedure whereby the head of the agency issuing the regulation, after determining that modification is appropriate and necessary to the purposes of the program, may modify, solely for the purpose of that program, the definitions of MSAs.

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- 5. <u>List of MSA Definitions</u>: A complete listing of metropolitan statistical areas as of June 30, 1986 is available from the National Technical Information Service Document Sales, 5205 Port Royal Road, Springfield, VA 22161 (703-487-4650) (Accession Number PB86-199742).
- 6. <u>Inquiries</u>: Inquiries concerning MSA definitions and their use should be directed to Maria E. Gonzalez (395-3087).

James Hiter III